

physical standpoint. After ascribing the play of colors in various objects to the physical action of structural differences on the light, not to the coloring matter of the part, he speaks of the prismatic colors seen in certain feathers when examined against a strong light (p. 244, 245); and also states that the wonderful revelations of the microscope, then in its infancy, would doubtless show in such feathers minute prism-like structures as the cause of the iridescence—an interesting prophecy in the light of our present knowledge.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, *Boston, Mass.*

Birds Killed by a Storm.—About 11 o'clock P.M., on August 3, a terrific electric storm, accompanied by hail and wind, struck this city. Next morning the streets around the public parks and residence portions were literally covered with dead English Sparrows and a few Robins and other small birds. On one block in the residence portion of the city there were, by actual count, six hundred and twenty-two dead Sparrows, and one Robin. The nests containing eggs and young were blown down, and birds not killed by the fall were killed by the hail. Most of the old birds escaped, but the young, from just hatched to a couple of months old, were mostly killed, and had to be raked off the lawns and gathered up by street sweepers. A few more such storms would rid us of the detestable Sparrow.—WALTER I. MITCHELL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

THOMAS LYTTLETON, LORD LILFORD, late President of the British Ornithologists' Union, and Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northamptonshire, England, June 17, 1896, at the age of 63 years. He was one of the founders of the British Ornithologists' Union, and a prominent contributor to the early volumes of 'The Ibis.' Among his larger works are his 'Birds of Northamptonshire,' and 'Illustrations of British Birds.' He was enthusiastically interested in Hawking and in the study of live birds, his extensive aviaries containing many different kinds of Birds of Prey, Storks, Ibises, Herons, and Water-fowl. "His loss," says 'The Zoologist,' "will be deplored, not only by the learned societies of which he was so distinguished a member, but by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances to whom he had endeared himself by an unflinching kindness of heart and constant readiness to help."